

Proposed Claim Amendments and Discussion – Michael Ballard (54,978)

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Summary of 7/6/05

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid system component, comprising:
a body at least partially implemented in the form of a wall that defines a portion of a fluid passageway, the wall having a predetermined thickness; and
wherein at least a portion of the body has a reduced wall thickness ^{to form} a sacrificial element, ~~the sacrificial element at least indirectly attached to the body and cooperating with the body to~~ at least partially ~~define~~ defining the fluid passageway, the sacrificial element being configured for preferential failure, relative to the body, in response to the occurrence of a predefined condition.
2. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the body comprises a length of pipe or tubing.
3. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the predefined condition comprises exertion of a specified pressure differential upon the sacrificial element.
4. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial element comprises a window having a thickness substantially less than the wall thickness of the body.
5. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial element comprises a piece of material configured to rupture when exposed to the predefined condition.
6. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial element comprises a plurality of grooves formed in the wall so as to substantially define the perimeter of a blowout patch.
7. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial element is integral with the wall.
8. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial element is discrete from the wall.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid system component, comprising:

a body at least partially implemented in the form of a wall that defines a portion of a fluid passageway, the wall having a predetermined thickness; and

at least one sacrificial element ~~cooperating with~~ defined by a portion of the wall to facilitate definition of the portion of the fluid passageway, the at least one sacrificial element being integral continuous with the wall, and the at least one sacrificial element having a thickness substantially less than the wall thickness of the body.

10. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 9, wherein the fluid system component substantially comprises a metallic material.

11. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 9, wherein the at least one sacrificial element comprises a plurality of grooves formed in the wall so as to substantially define the perimeter of a blowout patch.

12. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 9, wherein the at least one sacrificial element comprises a window of predetermined geometry defined in the wall.

13. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 9, wherein the fluid system component comprises a plurality of sacrificial elements.

14. (Original) The fluid system component as recited in claim 9, wherein the body comprises a length of pipe or tubing.

15. (Original) A fluid system suitable for use in connection with a well system that includes a well pump configured for fluid communication with a wellhead by way of a well pump discharge line, the fluid system comprising:

a cessation product system that includes:

a pump configured for fluid communication with the well pump by way of the wellhead;

a pump controller configured for operable communication with the pump;

a cessation product reservoir in fluid communication with the pump and configured to hold a volume of cessation product; and

a sensor configured to operably communicate with the pump controller; and

a fluid system component configured for fluid communication with the well pump and the wellhead, the fluid system component comprising:

a body that at least partially defines a fluid passageway; and

a sacrificial element at least indirectly attached to the body and cooperating with the body to facilitate definition of the fluid passageway, the sacrificial element being configured for preferential failure, relative to the body, in response to the occurrence of a predefined condition.

16. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cessation product is selected from the group consisting of: concrete; cement; latex; and, drilling mud.
17. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sensor is configured to detect at least one of: the presence of a predetermined substance; and, the concentration of a predetermined substance.
18. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sacrificial element is integral with the body of the fluid system component.
19. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sacrificial element comprises a plurality of grooves formed in the body so as to substantially define the perimeter of a blowout patch.
20. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sacrificial element comprises a window of predetermined geometry defined in the body.
21. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the predefined condition comprises exertion of a specified pressure differential upon the sacrificial element.
22. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sacrificial element has a thickness substantially less than the wall thickness of the body.
23. (Original) The fluid system as recited in claim 15, wherein the sacrificial element is discrete from the body of the fluid system component.

Discussion: Discus distinction in sacrificial element of Applicant's invention and elements disclosed in Burris, Allen and Streich. Applicant's sacrificial element is a continuous piece of the pipe or body in which it is formed, whereas Burris, Allen and Streich all disclose the incorporation of a separate piece into a hole of a pipe.